Restructuring the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme

†1606. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to restructure the 'Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Component of independent evaluation has been built in for every project that is completed. So far, independent evaluation was entrusted to Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, Indian Institute of Management (HM), Ahmedabad, SB! Capital Markets Ltd, Mumbai and TATA Consultancy Services (TCS), New Delhi for 66 projects. Changes in the programme, *if* any, will depend on the outcome of the evaluation reports.

Gas based power plants

1607. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Ministry has decided not to pursue New Gas Power Projects in view of degree of instability on the issues regarding gas supply and price etc.;

(b) when the gas availability is likely to become normal;

(c) whether the existing LNG power plants are under utilized to the extent of 40 per cent; and

(d) if so, when the full installed capacity will be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Due to its inherent advantages, Ministry of Power has been trying to increase the share of gas based power projects in generation capacity. However, due to non-firming up of fuel linkages on account of factors like unstable price in the international market, etc., the cautious approach is being followed up.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.